



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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July 15, 2004

WICHITA, KANSAS, MAN SENTENCED FOR TOPEKA BANK ROBBERY

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Martin Lee Paris, 36, Wichita, Kansas, was sentenced on July 15, 2004, by U.S. District Judge Richard D. Rogers to fifteen years in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Paris entered a guilty plea on April 5, 2004, to one count of bank robbery.

Melgren stated that Paris admitted at his plea that on November 14, 2002, he entered the Community National Bank of Topeka and gave the teller a note demanding money. Paris further admitted that he left the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash and that the note was found in a water puddle approximately ten feet outside the bank. Paris was identified by the FBI as the bank robber from surveillance photos taken by the bank's video recording system.

According to court records, at the time Paris robbed the Community National Bank of Topeka he was on supervised release for two prior bank robbery convictions in Wichita in 1994. Court records further reflect prior criminal convictions for four prior crimes of violence.

"Our community is a safer place today because of this sentence," Melgren said. "I want to commend the excellent work of the FBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Mattivi in this prosecution."